

# ANSWER

## LETTER

### Friend in the Country

Touching the present Fears of the Nation, and from whence they arise.

HAVING by the Post Received an unexpected Letter without the subscription of any Name, wherein the Author informs me he had received mine on the 10th of February last past, which hath put me to some trouble in searching my Coppies of that Date, wherein I find three several Letters, one of which was to the supposed Author, being conscious to my self that I have Correspondence with none of a debauched, dissolute, lewd and scandalous Conversation, but that person (the occasion of which, hath been the Emergency of some Affairs, which now are near a Period) by the request of whole Companies, compared with his former Letters, gives me full assurance it is the same person, and as I have not the Art to embalm a sinking reputation, nor make Deformity appear Beautiful, so am I not able to defend our faulty Author in that proper Place, that indeed he fully deserves, but shall endeavour to take away some of the weight that is upon him, that others seeing him in his true light, may have that Contempt and scorn for him, which I cannot but promise, that his Letter, that came to me, was sent a long Morning, and a very debauched Night, when perhaps he might commit a mistake, not in the delivery of his Letter, but in the choice of his words, which I have indeed for some time, been a great deal of time, and Envy like insects, and that perhaps being so, by the Loss of his Evening Cup, that perhaps he had any other will of his own mind, and perhaps he could prompt him to

tending to Coar holy writ, for his Atheistical asseverations, and at the same time in plain Terms tells us that Prayer, that highly necessary duty is but a meer Art, and such an Art as a Man (provided he have but a good stock of Confidence) may soon attain unto; I do not here design to particularize any Answer to his smutty Sheet, looking upon it as worthy any other Answer, than to blazen out the Author thereof according to his demerits which were none. I am perswaded some of those reverend and worthy persons it seems to alline would undertake the returning a humble and reasonable Answer.

First in the Preamble to this Paper, the Author says he Resolved upon writing this Libel, to give me some satisfaction to my Request, whereas the same is not only quite Repugnant thereto, but is a very stink in the Nostrels of all sober and impartial men, no less shallow and silly are his Assertions of the present Fears and Jealousies of the Nation to arise from the increase of Sects and Factions (as he calls them) amongst us, because forsooth (says he) these Factions are so increased since the colligation, by which Branch of his Venomous Discourse I gather that the Authors Ears itch to hear of Clandestine Troubles which he would fain lay upon the Shoulders of others having no doubt contrived some expedient by what means to patch up his broken Reputation through the Murder, Rapine and Rebellion, he would fain be a promoter of, or that his Debauchery hath so consumed that small Patrimony of which he was an unworthy possessor that he can no more find the high preferment many of those Prentice-belov'd Officers, called Informers have attained, and looking upon himself to be very well qualified for that Office having necessarily those necessary Vertues of lying, dissembling, Flattering and swearing to any thing for Gain, whether false or true, it seems no matter with him, and for a Crown, would gladly become a Post-Right, to such Monsters as these that trouble poor England, and ought to be esteemed by all Lovers of their Country as the most pernicious disturbers of its Peace and welfare. England is now swarmed with many such Wenchericks and Time-serving Libellers, and Villainicks, who make it their chief Study and Drift of their Lives to promote discord and Division amongst his Majesties Loyal Subjects while such it is. If a Man believes it is his Duty to cry him down as a person dangerous and disaffected to the Government; to which end, they produce such a Pantheicks, Shilmaticks, or favourers of them, whereas such may well be compared to Sampsons Foxes, which being ty'd Tail to Tail, and the Firebrand of

bribes

bribes in the midst are enough to let a whole Nation on fire.

Nay our Author goes on farther, and says, the of all this is, because the penal Laws are not put in Execution. Hold, I had almost forgot! Here comes in Mr. Informers loss, whose Trade by his Majesties Great Wisdome and Gracious Favour is much fallen to decay; but wherefore is all this Clamour, and all this Mallice, merely because his Majesty was pleased for a time to remove the sore Backs of Protestant Dissenters from under the Ecclesiastical Law, and to follow his own Royal Inclinations in emitting a Declaration of Indulgence, pray let any Reasonable Man judg, who can more daringly oppose the proceedings of Supreme Authority, than so impudently to Grudge and Grumble at the Generous and necessary Indulgence of their Prince, for the publick good of his Subjects, as our impudent Author does, for were there a Reward promised for the apprehending such whom he seems to Calumniate, the vertue thereof might be a redgent Reason to prompt him to confer some more liberal Treat upon his debauched *Dissolutes*, than in his present condition he may be in a capacity of performing, and might have diverted himself in quaffing his Drunken Cups instead of gauling his *Unions* Head upon this Subject.

The other part of his odious Paper, being not worthy any other Answer than to scourge him with his own Rod, being look'd upon by all sober Men of what Judgment soever, to be the most yll said and brutal Lines that ever issued from the Press, looking more like the Vomits and Excrements of a Devil incarnate, than anything proceeding from Morality it self, being highly more necessary for all Protestants of what Judgment or persuasion soever, to join heart and hand for the Rousing out of the common Enemy of England, by mean the *Papists*, (of whom I am afraid our Author is a Member) than by any Calumnies or endeavours whatsoever to be divided and distracted amongst ourselves, and truly I am of Opinion, that no Dissenters from the Church whatever, or at least but the most inconsiderable part of them, but would hazard their Lives, their Estates, and all All, for the preservation of his Majesties Royal Person and Government, against those incendiaries of the Pope and Hell, that are plotting out utter Ruine and Desolation, of which some have highly manifested their unwearyed Industry in the late (I may say present) Plot; and shall I think a Minister is afraid of paying to their God in fear of men, whereas as our late Author in his Accomplices, when Papal Violence is undermining both Church and State, no it is far better swimming in the Water-works of



Repentance, than burning in the Fireworks of Vengeance. And  
I shall only take notice of some words near the close of his  
Letter (of Father Rebekahs Pamphlet) which tells us that Je-  
sus came amongst us under the notion of Presbyterian Ministers,  
and what Inference thence you he draws from thence, why (says  
he) is it impossible to take the Jesuits out unless the other party  
and their Ministers be destroyed. And he said unless the other  
party be destroyed and destroyed, I should have thought  
that the Jesuits would have been destroyed according to the Inclination  
of the Nation. But of this I hope the most eminent  
Ministers of the Church will be fully satisfied, and grant such a thing hath been  
proved, and is not a matter of doubt, that that party is the only back-  
door by which the Jesuits to come in at, to infect the Nation for their  
evil Designs. I shall be so Repugnant to Reason that they run the  
danger of being shut up in a Prison, and had in good belief in the Custody of a Jailor,  
as soon as they shall find the smell of a Jesuit, we have heard that  
the Devil himself hath transformed himself into an Angel of  
Light, to seduce them that follow Vipers and Vermine do so in-  
dulgently, and all means to propagate their devilish Designs, but  
it is worth the Remark that many Pamphlets which in these our  
times are scattered abroad by the Papists (some of which I could  
name) have for their main purpose to scandalize Fanaticks,  
and to expose Popery, not aspersing Callumnies on the for-  
mer, but aspersing bitter expressions, against the latter, lest by  
that means the Truth should be taken off, and they appear to be whom  
they are, and so indefatigable in their under hand endea-  
vours to bring the Protestants together by the Ears, and then their  
work is done; pray under what notion do these Vermine do  
this, which indeed if suffered may prove a more dangerous back-  
door than the other; of which number I look upon the Author of  
the mentioned Letter to a Friend in the Country to be.

